HAMATEUR CHATTER

One of the World's Oldest Continuously Active Radio Amateur Clubs - since 1917

Vol.13 No. 02 - February, 2005

President's Letter

This month I'd like to talk about success; small successes and large ones too! I'll start with a quote from President Calvin Coolidge:

PERSISTENCE

"Nothing in the world can take the place of persistence.

Talent will not: Nothing is more common then unsuccessful men with talent.

Genius will not: Unrewarded genius is almost a proverb.

Education will not: The world is full of educated derelicts.

Persistence and determination alone are omnipotent!

PRESS ON!"

The reason for this erudite quote is the recent persistence and determination displayed by our technical committee. In case you haven't noticed, our club repeater is back on the air with a vengeance! Enough of the work on the tower has been done to provide us with an amazing machine! You have to understand that prior to this move, my access to the repeater required a high wattage amplifier, a high gain antenna and some good band conditions. Now, I still use the "good antenna", but I get into the repeater with 5 to 10 watts depending on the amount of hiss I want to allow myself. Others have reached the machine with full quieting from under the tunnel on Howell avenue… don't know if there were any airplanes going by at the time!

Some time ago a previous Presi-dent gave the technical committee the task of making the repeater reachable from within Milwaukee County, using an HT and 5 watts. They have done that and a big "thank you" goes from me and should go from every one else out there with the potential to use our machine. We should also remember to thank those other folks, not even club members, who gave of their time and expertise to get the job done. To those fine gents… thanks from all of us!

KARMA

Somewhere it is written that no good deed goes unpunished. In this case Murphy or whoever wrote that idiom was wrong! Some of you may remember that we were asked if we would be willing to give up our "coordinated" frequency for another. It seemed that the folks that ran the 145.39 repeater before had major problems with interference from the same frequency in Illinois. Our 147.45 frequency was unhampered and because these fellows were moving to higher ground, if we didn't switch frequencies with them, they would have some real problems. Your board deliberated for a few minutes and because it seemed the right thing to do, we voted to make the change! No strings attached. The Karma part of it comes next! These fine folks found out that our repeater had the potential of loosing its home and they heard we were looking for a new site… With little discussion, a new site was offered and the rest is history as we now enjoy beautiful coverage and performance from our repeater on our new frequency of **145.39 (negative 600 offset and PL of 127.3)**. The Karma was not instantaneous but the results are definitely worth the wait. Again, Thanks to all!

NEXT

The next item on our agenda is Field Day… Remember that day? The one where we go out and feed the mosquitoes while trying to make radio contacts on someone else's radio that has knobs exactly reversed from yours orantennas that have wires crossed with the other station's?

Prez cont. on pg. 5

MRAC Officers

President
Patrick Moretti` W9UQ

Vice Pres.
Howard Parks AB9FH

Secretary
Brian White K9LCQ

Treasurer
Tom Schulte AB9EK

Board of Directors

Pancho Doneis ('03-'05) KA9OFA

Hal Newton ('04-'06) KB9OZN

Joe Sturmberg ('04-'06) KA9DFZ

Jerry Wahlen ('03-'05) WA9CGE

Dick Wood ('03-'05) W9JBE

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Visit our website at:
http://www.qsl.net/mrac/

Address correspondence to:
M. R. A. C.
P.O. Box 070695
Milwaukee, WI 53207-0695
or w9rh@arrl.net

Milwaukee Area Nets

DAY	TIME	MHz	ACTIVITY
Daily	5:00 - 7:15 AM	3.985	Badger Weather Net
Daily	6:00 PM	1.895	MidEast 160 m. Net
Daily	6-8:00 AM	14.290	Milwaukee/Florida (SSB)
Daily	7:30 AM	144.155	Breakfast RoundTable (SSB)
Daily	6:30 PM	3.645	WI Slow Speed CW Traffic
Daily	9:30 PM	3.9725	Country Cousins Net
Mon.-Sat.	12:00 PM	28.380	10/10 International Net
Mon.	8:00 PM	146.865-	ARES Net (Walworth and ARRL news)
Mon.	8:00 PM	146.445	Emergency Net
Mon.	8:45 PM	146.670-	ARRL voice news (ARES)
Mon.	9:00 PM	50.160	6 m.SSB NET
Mon.	9:00 PM	146.670-	ARES Net (Milwaukee-Waukesha)
Tue.	9:00 AM	50.160	6 Mtr. 2nd Shifters' SSB Net
Tue.	8:00 PM	144.250	Badger Contesters (SSB)
Tue.	8:00 PM	7.035	A.F.A.R. (CW)
Tue.	8:30 PM	223.500	X-Country Simplex Group (FM)
Tue.	9:00 PM	50.160	6 m. SSB Net.
Wed.	8:00 PM	28.365	10/10 Internat. (Milw. Ch.) (SSB)
Wed.	8:00 PM	145.130	ARRL voice news
Wed.	8:00 PM	147.270+	Weather & Swap net.
Thu.	9:00 PM	50.160	6 mtr. SSB Net.
Thu.	9:00 PM	146.910-	Computer Net
Fri	8:30 PM	28.490	MRAC W9RH 10 m. Net (SSB)
Fri.	9:00 PM	145.390-	W9RH 2 m. FM Net after 10mtr.
Sat	9:00 PM	146.910-	Saturday Night Fun Net
Sun.	8:30 AM	3.985	QCWA (Chptr 55) (SSB)
Sun.	9:00 AM	145.565	X-Country Simplex Group (FM)
Sun.	10:00 AM	443.800+	FM-38 link to 146.88 Bar. SWAP Net
Sun.	8:00 PM	28.365	10/10 Int. (MKE Ch.) (SSB)
Sun.	8:00 PM	146.910-	Information Net
Sun.	9:00 PM	146.910-	Swap Net

2 meter repeaters are offset by 600KHz - - 70 centimeter repeaters are offset by 5 MHz
SSB frequencies below 20 meters are LSB and for 20 mtrs and above are USB

HAMATEURCHATTER

HamateurChatter is the newsletter of MRAC (Milwaukee Radio Amateurs' Club) which is a not for profit organization for the advancement of amateur radio and the maintenance of fraternalism and a high standard of conduct.

MRAC Membership dues are $17.^{00}$ per year and run on a calendar year starting with January 1.

MRAC general membership meetings are normally held at 7:00 p.m. the last Thursday of the month except for November (3rd Thursday due to Thanksgiving) and December, when we have our Christmas Dinner.

Meetings are held at:

Redemption Lutheran Church
Fellowship Hall
4057 N. Mayfair Rd.
Milwaukee, WI

Credits

Our thanks to our news contributors this month:

AB9EK WB9PTC W9UQ
AB9G KF9XL

Our thanks goes out to:

Rita Doneis and Tom Fuszard for proofreading the 'Chatter.

Dick Wood for mailing the hard copy of the 'Chatter.

Joe Schwarz, who Emails the 'Chatter.

Howard Parks, who administers our Web Site.

Ted Stiller for obtaining and serving refreshments at our meetings.

Tom Sherlowsky and Jacquie Horwitz for taking care of the raffle at the meetings.

Mark Tellier, Tom Czaja, John Kraak and Tom Fuszard who are our VEC's.

Special appreciation also for helping to catch some long standing errors in the 'Chatter.

Thank YOU!

Re: Our Last Meeting

I went to the January meeting of MRAC. I had not been to a meeting for some time. I always enjoy going to see my friends there.

We have a great club and I am proud to belong to it.

I always look at the sign-in sheet to see who is attending.

Well I looked around and saw my good friend Brad Reeves, N9KXA. I see he joined the radio club that night. Just in case you don't know, Brad is a pretty good ham and knows a lot about electronic equipment. He has bailed me out a few times when I had a problem with computerized charging systems for my equipment for medical equipment. Brad does a lot of experimental things as a good HAM would do. Our club will get to know him and hope stays with us for many years. Welcome, Brad!!!!!!!

Richard L. McNew, WB9PTC

General Membership Meeting 1/27/05

Patrick, W9UQ, the club's president called the meeting to order at 7:05 pm. Patrick explained the sign up sheets that were located at the entrance of the meeting room. The sheets were for club committees such as Field Day, Education and Refreshment. Also there was a sign up sheet for the Sullivan Weather Office Tour.

Patrick announced that Helen, KB9RRW, the wife of DJ, KC9AYO, had passed away suddenly at the age of 51 on Sunday, January 23, 2005. Visitation is on January 27 and will be buried on the 28th. Our deepest sympathy goes out to DJ.

The microphone was passed for introductions and two new members were introduced, Brad, N9KXA, and Ron, KA9JCP. Welcome.

Tom, AB9EK, read the minutes from the November meeting. A motion was made by Les and seconded by Pancho to approve the minutes as read. Motion passed. Tom gave the treasurer's report for the months of November, December and January. Tom also gave a summary of the actual club expenses for 2004. Discussion occurred and a question was asked if dues needed to be raised. Patrick stated no. Mark questioned the expenses and thought they were incorrect because it does not take into account the printing of the Chatter that was donated. Tom stated that he had gone through the bills and accounting records to come up with the summary. Tom stated that this was not a proposed budget but the actual amounts the club had spent. This discussion went back and forth when Vern stepped in and stated that arguing does no good and we should end this discussion. Vern stated that if the club would need more funds, that he thought the members would step up and donate. After all was said and done, a motion was made by John and seconded by Pancho to approve the reports as given. Motion passed.

Howard, AB9FH, stated that there would be a Technician class starting on February 19th at AES from 12:30 TO 2:30 p.m. There is no charge for the class. Books for the class have been donated and will be on loan to the students. The class will run for six weeks with the exam to follow at AES Super Fest. Instructors are needed.

Brian, K9LCQ, has set up a tour at the Sullivan Weather Office on March 5th; rain date is March 12th. We need at least 10 members to signup with a maximum of 20. The tour will start at 10:30 a.m. and you must provide your own transportation to the site. If the Homeland Security Department raises the security level above yellow the tour will be cancelled. Listen on the repeater for changes.

Joe stated that the posters he had designed for promoting the club and amateur radio are now located in some of the area schools. He has posters for members to take and post in local stores if they wish. The cost to produce the flyers is about $25.00.

Patrick stated that in past years, Jim, WB9LNU, had donated equipment in the name of the club to the church. The value of the equipment was $150 to $200. The Board was looking for approval from the membership to donate $200.00 to the church for 2005. A motion was made by Vern and seconded by Pancho to donate $200.00 to the church for 2005. Motion passed.

Old Business; Vern stated that the 2004 Christmas party at the Machine Shed had 19 participants and everyone had fun. Vern recommends a new place for this year, Meyers on South 76th and Coldspring Road. We would need at least 25 committed members to attend in order to reserve a date with them. Look at your calendar and see if you can make a commitment in the next few months so that Vern can make reservations.

There was discussion about the club's web page. Gerry, W9AR, stated that it took him over 5 minutes to download the Chatter PDF file and suggests the club gets its own URL. Patrick stated that the Board is developing a plan to present to the membership on getting a new web page and domain name. Our present provider does not guarantee their service and at times is not available.

A Pro AM 2 meter antenna was donated to the club to auction off. The antenna went to Jim, W9LCD, for $12.00.

Dave DeFebo stated that he had received some memorabilia from the family of the original license holder of W9RH. Dave will have an update of the club history for the web page and for the photo album, which will be on the club table at AES Super Fest in April.

The club's FM contest is February 13th. Plan on participating.

A motion to adjourn the meeting was made by Pancho and seconded by Bill. Meeting adjourned at 8:17 p.m. Dick, W9JBE, provided the program, "Lightning protection in the shack".

Respectfully submitted by

Tom, AB9EK, Secretary

Tower Climbing/Antenna Work?

As I get older, it occurred to me that there is probably every so often need by some hams for fellow hams who would do tower climbing (for a fee). A fellow ham, because it should be someone knowledgeable about antennas, cables, soldering, etc., but also someone who has the equipment to do it safely. When I was "young and beautiful" (half a century ago) I did quite a bit of tower and pole climbing myself, mostly installing wiring for sound systems and intercoms. Some of the things we did then, as I think back, still scare me, although they didn't then – and I never owned or used a belt or any other special equipment and neither did the company I worked for. Ah, the "good"-old days...

Anyway, it might be useful to know who in (or outside) the Club would be worth talking to or consulting with, a sort of "no-obligation list" ---- ??????

Hans

AE9G, Hans

Reminders!

Please, check in to our nets on Friday evenings.

Our Ten meter SSB net is at **8:30 p.m.** at **28.490 MHz. USB**

Our Two meter FM net follows at 9:00 PM on our repeater at **145.390 MHz** with a minus offset and a **PL of 127.3 Hz.**

Join us for Saturday morning breakfast at Maxim's Restaurant, 18025 W. Capitol Dr. We usually meet at around 8:00 AM, and order around 8:15 AM.

VEC Report

MRAC VEC held VE testing on January 29, 2005 at AES. There were 9 examinees, and 8 were successful in either upgrading or in qualifying for their initial license. A total of 11 Elements were given, and 10 were passed.

A special thank you to the following VEs who attended this session:

Tom Czaja	KG9EE
Les Hundt	AB9EY
Bob Immekus	W9CYI
Kate Kedney	KA9MWT
John Kraak	KF9XL
Dick Mc New	WB9PTC
Hal Newton	KB9OZN
Mark Tellier	AB9CD
Ron Yokes	W9BCK

Our next exam session is scheduled for **Saturday, February 26, 2005 at 9:30 a.m. at AES.**

73,

John (KF9XL)

John, KF9XL

Wanted – Field Day Chairman

We need a volunteer to step forward to become Field Day chairman. Field Day is quite a while off, so at present there is plenty of time to make plans.

If interested, please contact a Board member or Club officer.

MRAC VEC A Exam Schedule

Sat., Feb. 26, 2005 – 9:30 a.m @ AES
Sat., Apr. 2, 2005 – 9 a..m. @ AES
(AES Superfest)
Sat., Apr. 30, 2005 – 9:30 a.m. @ AES
Sat., May 7, 2005 – 9a.m. – Circle B Rec. Ctr. 6261 Hwy 60 (ORC Swapfest)
Sat., May 28, 2005 – 9:30 a.m. @ AES
Sat., Jul. 30, 2005 – 9:30 a.m. @ AES

AES is Amateur Electronic Supply
5710 W. Good Hope Rd.
Milwaukee, WI

73,

John (KF9XL)

KF9XL

'Chatter Deadline

The **deadline** for items to be published in **HamateurChatter** is the 7th day of each month. If you have anything for the 'Chatter, please get it to me before then.

You may contact me by email at:

pancho@thepark.net

or by snailmail at:

Pancho Doneis - KA9OFA
1958 N. 38th St.
Milwaukee, WI 53208

or by phone at:

(414) 344-4694

FOR WHAT IT'S WORTH

From The Secretary/Treasurer

I would like to start out by apologizing to all the members and guests that were present at the January meeting for the outburst between Mark, AB9CD, and me. The situation should have been handled outside the meeting. After giving the treasurer's report, I tried to explain that the numbers given were what the club had actually spent for 2004. This was not a budget and did not include any expenses that individuals had donated. I was not aware of any donations at the time. A question was asked if the dues should be raised to cover the club expenses and I believed Patrick had answered it. "We don't need to raise dues."

I have heard through the grape vine that some members are not happy with the Board or rather with our performance. If this is so, I wish those members would come forward and tell us what their complaint is instead of talking to others to relay the message (or going behind our backs).

With this all said and done, I want to give advance notice to all the Board members and club members that I will not run again for any office, committee or Board position when my term expires. I have had enough of the squabbling and this is no longer fun.

Tom, AB9EK

Editor's note: *If people wish to destroy the club it's easy to do, through underhandedness and back stabbing.*

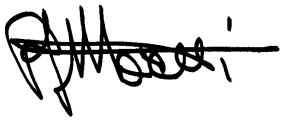
If you wish to keep the club together, help us by coming forward and telling us straight forward what you think is wrong or better yet, how we can improve the situation. Another way to improve the situation is to join in on the decision making . Become an officer or a board member. Join in some of our committees.

Don't be a part of the problem. Be a part of the solution.

Prez cont. from pg. 1

This is where you learn the true meaning of cross banding (as it refers to antennas). Be there or be square! And remember if you are square, we just might bolt you to a boom and run you up the mast as one of the elements of some far fetched quad! Seriously, do plan to come visit us at our old standby "Pioneer Village" and plan to operate or show someone else how to operate. We will have multiple stations, a variety of radios and enough antennas to go around! We plan to operate many bands and many modes. We also plan to have a lot of fun – weather permitting, we'll look at sunspots during the day and at various stellar formations at night. Do plan to come, plan to stay, bring a friend… operate!

73



Patrick

W9UQ

Adapted from May, 2003 issue of **HamateurChatter**

Q-SIGNALS?

The set of international Q-signals has been around for a long time, and most are clearly no longer needed by anyone. A small sample here gives some insight into what things were like, when they were first defined. Those were the days before easy voice and data communication and electronic navigation systems, particularly GPS, the days when Morse Code was absolutely essential.

A few examples:

QAH -- What is your altitude? / My altitude is .....

QAZ -- Are you flying in a thunderstorm? / I am....

QBB -- What is the ceiling height?/ The ceiling height is.....

QFG -- Am I over the airport?/ You are over the airport. (negative answer is NIL)

QTO -- Have you left the harbor? / I am leaving the harbor.

QTR -- What is the exact time? / The exact time is .....

Many years ago, during WWII, I remember having such a list. More recently I thought it sure would be nice if I had kept it, just for old time's sake. As luck would have it, a friend in Austria who is also interested in such things, asked one day whether I would like to have a booklet about radio published in 1944. (First edition had been in 1927). I said yes, and I am glad I did. It is a lot of fun to read, to see what the radio art was like then, and what was then important to know. How times have changed!

AE9G, Hans

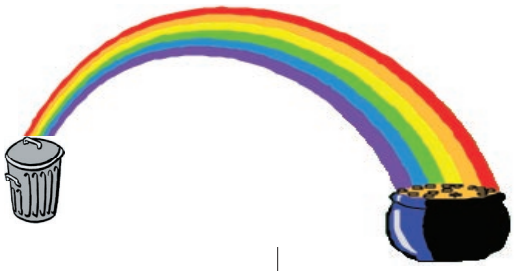
EVENTS

MRAC General Meeting
Thu. - Feb. 24, 2005
Redemption Lutheran Church
Milwaukee, WI

MicWinter Madness
Hobby Electronics Show
Sat. - Mar. 19, 2005
Buffalo Civic Center
Buffalo, MN

MRAC General Meeting
Thu. - Mar. 31, 2005
Redemption Lutheran Church
Milwaukee, WI

SuperFest *
Sat. - Apr. 2, 2005
AES
Milwaukee, WI



North Shore Radio Club HamFest *
SAT.. - APR 16, 2005
LAKE CO. FAIRGROUNDS
Grayslake, IL
T/I on 147.345+ rptr
or 146.52 simp

2005 Madison HamFest *
and Computer Show
SUN. - APR. 17, 2005
Mandt Community Ctr.
Stoughton, WI
T/I on 147.150 (123 Hz) rptr

SEWFARS Flea Market
Sun. - Apr. 24, 2005
Richfield Chalet
Hubertus, WI

MRAC General Meeting
Thu. - Apr. .28, 2005
Redemption Lutheran Church
Milwaukee, WI

* indicates
VE testing is available.

DUES AND YOUR CHATTER

Just a reminder: If you haven't paid your dues, please do so by the March meeting. If you have not renewed by then you will no longer receive the Chatter after March.

In order to make sure you receive the Chatter either by snail mail or e-mail, please make sure that the treasurer has your correct address and or e-mail address. There have been quite a few e-mail addresses that have bounced lately.

Pay your dues either at the club meeting or through the mail.

(There is Renewal form on page 7 of this issue of HamateurChatter. and there will be forms at the meetings a

Tom Schultz

Tom, AB9EK
Treasurer

Space Left for Your Filler

C'mon Gimme something to edit. Please!

Milwaukee Radio Amateurs' Club, Inc.

P.O. Box 070695
Milwaukee, WI 53207-0695

Membership Renewal - 2005

Date _____

Name _____ **Callsign** _____

Spouse or Family member name _____ **Callsign** _____

1st Address _____

2nd Address _____

City _____ **State** _____ **Zip Code** _____

Telephone Contact Number _____ **Home Cell Office Other**

Do you wish to receive the club newsletter via email? ☐ **Yes** ☐ **No**
E-mail address _____

Member License Class
☐ **None** ☐ **Novice** ☐ **Technician** ☐ **Technician Plus** ☐ **General** ☐ **Advanced** ☐ **Extra**

Spouse or Family Member License Class
☐ **None** ☐ **Novice** ☐ **Technician** ☐ **Technician Plus** ☐ **General** ☐ **Advanced** ☐ **Extra**

Membership Type Renewing (check only one)
☐ **Associate $17.00** ☐ **Family $17.00** ☐ **Regular $17.00**
☐ **Life w/Chatter $10.00 (minimum to cover the Chatter costs)**

Now that the repeater has been relocated, do you use the repeater? ☐ **Yes** ☐ **No**

Are you a member of the ARRL? ☐ **Yes** ☐ **No**

Comments: _____

_____

_____

_____

Enclose a check for the appropriate amount and mail it to the address above.

Membership year runs from January 1 through December 31

Received from _____ *Date* _____

The Sum of _____ *Dollars* *Cash/Check #* _____

For **Milwaukee Radio Amateurs' Club dues for 2005**

_____
Signed

The **next Meeting** of **M.R.A.C.**
will be **Thursday, February 24, 2005**
at **7:00 PM** at:

Redemption Lutheran Church
Fellowship Hall
4057 N. Mayfair Rd.
(Use the south entrance)
HANDICAPPED ACCESSIBLE

Please, DON'T call the church.

Program General Membership Meeting on February 24, 2005 will be:

A discussion of the NWS Tour on 3/5/05 and adiscussion of our signup sheets from last month's mtg.

Our Repeater

145.390 MHz - offset with
PL of 127.3Hz

Use it or lose it.

Visit our website at **http://www.qsl.net/mrac/**

Our phone (414) 332-MRAC
332-6722

M.R.A.C.
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